



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BLM news
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

BURNS DISTRICT 28910 HWY 20 WEST HINES, OR 97738 (541) 573-4400 www.or.blm.gov/burns/

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRIDGE REPAIRS TO BEGIN ON STEENS MOUNTAIN LOOP ROAD

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Burns District would like to announce the start of maintenance operations on the approaches to four bridges on the Steens Mountain Loop Road for the week of June 16, 2003. The East Canal and Blitzen River Bridges near Page Springs Campground on the North Loop Road, the Kueny Canyon Bridge off Highway 205 on the South Loop Road, and the Blitzen Crossing Bridge just prior to South Steens Campground, have several potholes and low areas in their approaches, which expose the bridge abutments. This exposure could eventually damage the entire bridge structure. "Paving the approaches to the abutments is necessary to protect the longevity of the bridge and the safety of traveling motorists, and is by no means an introduction to other paving projects on Steens Mountain," reports BLM District Manager Tom Dyer.

Maintenance operations are expected to last 3 to 5 days, with the paved sections reopening for full use no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, June 20, 2003, weather permitting. During the paving preparation phase, visitors can expect 15 to 20-minute delays, however, once paving begins, the road may be closed for up to 4 hours at a time. We regret any inconvenience and ask visitors to contact the Burns District Office at (541) 573-4400 to find the most current conditions *before* traveling in the project area.

For more information on the Steens Loop Road bridge repairs, visit the Burns District Office at 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon, or call (541) 573-4400, weekdays, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

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